

Watch: UP cop nabbed taking Rs 2 lakh bribe to drop name of rape accused

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LUCKNOW: Two days after a police sub-inspector posted at the Paper Mill Colony outpost was caught accepting Rs 2 lakh bribe inside Mahanagar police station premises, a video of his entire 'act of graft' has gone viral on social media.

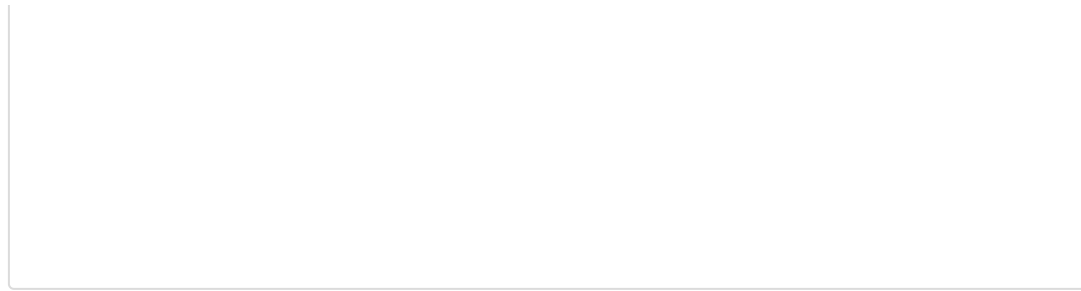
The video was part of a trap planned by the Uttar Pradesh Anti-Corruption Organisation (ACO), which arrested the accused SI. The trap was planned after the ACO got a complaint that the SI was asking for Rs 2 lakh bribe from a gang rape accused for a 'favourable final report'.

In the one-minute and two-second viral video, Dhananjay Singh, who was in charge of the Paper Mill Colony outpost under Mahanagar police station, is purportedly seen sitting at his desk

while a man hands him a bundle of cash. The sub-inspector can be seen placing wads of Rs 500 notes into a file, concealing them among documents, and tucking the file aside.

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The SI was arrested late on Wednesday night after the trap operation conducted by the ACO. The bribe amount, consisting of 400 notes of Rs 500 each, totalling Rs 2,00,000, was recovered from his possession. According to officials, the officer was asking for the bribe in exchange for preparing a "final report" (closure report) to favour an accused in a gang rape case under investigation. The complainant submitted a written complaint to the inspector in-charge of the anti-corruption organisation, Lucknow Mandal, on Oct 24. Inspector Vinod Kumar conducted a confidential verification inquiry.

His findings confirmed that SI Dhananjay Singh demanded Rs 2 lakh through the coaching centre manager and that there was credible audio evidence supporting the bribery allegations.

On the morning of Oct 29, the trap team assembled at the anti-corruption office, Lucknow Mandal, and proceeded to the DM's camp office to obtain official witnesses. Two govt officers, Dheeraj Kumar Srivastava and Saurabh Singh, both senior assistants from the Public Works Department (PWD), were deputed as independent witnesses. The team met the complainant at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Gomtinagar, where Rs 2 lakh in Rs 500 notes (400 notes in four bundles) were produced by the complainant. The notes were treated with phenolphthalein powder to mark them for forensic testing and were instructed to hand over the money to the accused only upon direct demand. After completing the pre-trap formalities, the team proceeded to the Paper Mill Colony outpost, positioning themselves in plain clothes at strategic locations nearby.

At around 7.30pm, SI Dhananjay Singh arrived at the outpost on a motorcycle. A short while later, the complainant entered the outpost with his associate. As per the official trap report, Singh asked him to place the cash inside a file, signalling him with a hand gesture. The complainant complied, inserting the treated notes into the file. The moment the transaction was complete, the anti-corruption team, which had been monitoring the exchange through audio transmission devices, entered the outpost and apprehended the officer.

Upon search, the same treated Rs 500 notes totalling Rs 2 lakh were recovered from the file. Sodium carbonate

test conducted on Singh's hands turned pink, further verifying his contact with the treated notes. The entire operation was video-recorded.